

Committee:	Date:
Education Board	16 October 2014
Subject: Governors Skills Audit and Training Programme	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>On 1 May 2014 the Court of Common Council approved the establishment of an Education Board with a number of responsibilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversight of the City of London Corporation's education activities and liaison with the City's affiliated schools and co-sponsors, • oversight of the City's role as a sponsor of academies, • ensuring that the City's contribution to governance of the schools is effective, and • liaising with City-appointed governors at the City's family of schools to monitor progress and contribution towards the Education Strategy. <p>This report provides the Education Board with an update on the skills audit which the Education Unit asked all Chairmen of Governors to complete, information about the training programme that is being developed for governors, and the opportunities for collaboration that were agreed at the recent Headteachers' Forum.</p> <p>Recommendation Members are asked to note this report.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. On 1 May 2014 the Court of Common Council approved the establishment of an Education Board with a number of responsibilities, including:
 - oversight of the City of London Corporation's education activities and liaison with the City's affiliated schools and co-sponsors,
 - oversight of the City's role as a sponsor of academies,
 - ensuring that the City's contribution to governance of the schools is effective, and
 - liaising with City-appointed governors at the City's family of schools to monitor progress and contribution towards the Education Strategy.

Purpose

2. This report provides the Education Board with an update on the skills audit which the Education Unit asked all Chairmen of Governors to complete, information about the training programme that is being developed for

governors, and the opportunities for collaboration that were agreed at the recent Headteachers' Forum.

Governors Skills Audit

3. A paper from Sir Michael Wilshaw regarding the expectations to be placed on governors and the inclusion of Governance as an Ofsted Judgement was circulated at the first meeting of the Chairmen of Governors' Forum and was also circulated to the Education Board.
4. The Education Unit then circulated an audit for the Chairmen of Governors to complete so that it could assess the skillset and training needs of governors across the City schools. The audit included a question regarding safeguarding and DBS clearance checks. This is to ensure due diligence as Sponsors. The Education Unit has not received returns from all governing bodies. The Education Unit has reminded Chairmen of this outstanding action.
5. Lord Nash has now written to all Chairmen of Governing bodies emphasising their role in ensuring that their governors are equipped to govern effectively. He also refers to support that can be gained from various sources (Appendix 2). The Education Unit has advised Chairmen to subscribe to the National Governors Association or the sister organisation for the Independent sector in order that all governors can have access to the services.
6. The NGA has produced a skills audit for governing bodies and this has been circulated to Chairmen of Governors (Appendix 1). This will greatly assist in identifying training needs as well as the skills needed when a vacancy occurs. This should dovetail with the skills matrix that the Education Board has developed for governor vacancies.
7. The emphasis on high quality governance in our schools from government and Ofsted is not going to go away. Although not currently aimed at independent schools it is considered best practice and therefore will be looked at during an inspection.
8. The City of London is hosting, in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE), a breakfast event on the 14 November to explore what potential there is for City businesses, in particular the professional firms, to encourage their personnel to bring their experience to academy trusts in non-executive director roles. Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, has kindly agreed to lead the discussion by outlining the impact of non-executive directors to bring their experience to academy trusts and to change the lives of students. The discussion will focus on the best ways to engage businesses from a variety of sectors.

Governors Training programme

9. The Education Unit recognises that governors receive training from local providers but the City has a responsibility to ensure that governors are able to fulfil their duties. We will therefore be running sessions on critical areas during the year. This term we will run two sessions at the Guildhall and they will be open to all governors. Brief details are as follows:

- *Understanding Your School Data* – This will enable governors to be able to examine the performance of the school in public examinations and identify where value added measures can be found. It will help governors to know where progress is being made and how to identify areas needing improvement. It will also cover the Data dashboard and Raise on Line and equip you to set targets for school improvement.
- *Safeguarding* – This course will cover the essentials to ensure schools comply with all safeguarding regulations.

10. The Education Unit has purchased an online training programme for all City governors. It breaks topics down into modules to be followed and provides certificates of completion. This is very useful to contribute to the training record for governors which will help to provide evidence during an inspection. It is entitled Modern Governor and is located at <http://www.moderngovernor.com/>.

Collaboration across the Family of Schools

11. At the Headteachers' Forum meeting on 19 September the following programme of activities was agreed for the coming year:

- The independent schools and academies will work together to raise the standards for attainment at Key Stage 5. This will bring subject teachers and leaders together across the schools to work at increasing the A*AB grades across the A level curriculum. Successful teachers will run workshops using exemplar exam material to mentor other staff. We will benchmark from the outset and set targets to demonstrate the success achieved by the sharing of best practice across the family.
- The Education Unit will be facilitating engagement with the Heads of Sixth Form across the schools bringing them together to support their development as leaders and sharing expertise.
- A further focus will be to raise the number of students gaining entrance to Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities. A programme of training for staff will take place to ensure good and appropriate applications are made. Additionally the students will attend Careers Fairs at the Independent schools and attend mock interviews. We aim to raise aspirations and prepare students better for successful placement at good universities. We will benchmark current placements and set targets for each school.
- The City schools have joined the United Learning Partnership to enhance professional development opportunities for staff. Sarah Fletcher, Headteacher at the City of London School (Boys) is leading this initiative.

- A Masters in Education programme is being jointly proposed. Ena Harrop, Headteacher at the City of London School for Girls and Clare Verga, Principal of the City of London Academy, Islington, are leading this initiative.
- The Primary schools will work to share best practice and will focus with the secondary schools on raising level 6 attainment. A summer school is planned at the City of London School for Girls aiming at high attaining Year 5 students. The Headteacher from Redriff Primary School, Mickey Kelly, is an experienced Headteacher and an accredited National Leader in Education and he will mentor Tim Wilson our new Headteacher at Sir John Cass Primary School.
- Events for students to come together during the year will be organised, including:
 - A debate in the Guildhall for Year 10 and Sixth Form students, with qualifying rounds.
 - A concert of Music, if possible in the Barbican, an Art Competition and exhibition in the gallery.
 - A Sports Day at the City of London Freeman's School.

Recommendation

12. Members are asked to note this report.

Background paper

City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – NGA Skills Audit
- Appendix 2 – Lord Nash's letter to Chairmen of Governors

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